Delay in Express Trains in Andhra Pradesh

1715. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that express trains are running delayed in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the reasons for even middle distance trains like the Gouthami Express to run late frequently;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Gouthami Express reaches Secunderabad late on most days;

(d) whether there is a casual attitude on the part of the railways with regards to punctuality of express trains; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to monitor the functioning of the trains and their punctuality in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The punctuality of Gauthami Express has been satisfactory. However, on certain occasions, the train does run late due to alarm chain pulling, cattle run over, derailment, rail breakage, heavy rain resulting in signal failure and submerging of track, out of path etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The following steps are being taken to improve the punctuality of trains:

1. Intensive, round the clock monitoring of trains at all the three levels viz. Divisional, Zonal Head Quarters and Railways Board.

2. Punctuality drives are being conducted by nominating officials to monitor trains.

3. Running of trains at maximum permissible speed subject to observance of safety limits and speed restriction.

4. Improvement in Time tabling to provide a clear path.

5. Improvement in standard of maintenance to reduce equipment failures.

6. Counselling and motivating staff to ensure punctual running. Liaison with State Government to tackle the Law and Order problems and miscreant activities.

Increasing lease occupancy level of luggage

1716. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR:

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are planning to increase the lease occupancy level of luggage parcel van to the private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to maximize the utilization of the space in the luggage compartments of the front Brakevahs (SLRs) of passenger carrying trains and to provide value-added services to the rail customers, parcel space in the front Brakevans (SLRs) of passenger carrying trains is leased out to private participants by inviting bids through open tenders. Similarly, leasing of space is also permitted for parcel vans on round-trip basis.

(c) Does not arise.

Demands for introduction of train services in Behrampur

1717. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last visit of the Railway Minister to Behrampur, Orissa, the people of the area have made certain demands of introduction of train services and taking up of passenger amenities works;

(b) if so, the details of the demands so made by the public;

(c) whether Government have considered these demands; and